

I suppose it is the same Kingbird which, with another, nests near by.—
THOMAS B. BERGEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Habits of the Blue Jay.—It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk' to learn that I can add, what is to me, a new bird to the list of those making their nests in or about buildings. We have a pair of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) in Brookline, Mass., that have this year built their nest in a most conspicuous place, between the stems of a Wistaria vine and the capitol of a pillar, supporting a piazza roof. This piazza is in almost daily use, and the path leading immediately beside it is also used constantly. At the time of building, and even on June 3, when I saw the nest full of young ones, there were no leaves in the immediate vicinity to hide the nest, thus leaving it in a very conspicuous position.

We all know that certain birds change their habits in accordance with the march of civilization, and I was not very much surprised a few years ago, when I knew of a Blue Jay building its nest in a maple tree, immediately beside our town hall, in the heart of the town; but I was surprised at the above incident, and thought that it might be of interest to others.—
FRED H. KENNARD, *Boston, Mass.*

Probable Polygamy of the Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus macrourus*).—As evidence bearing upon the supposed polygamy of the Great-tailed Grackle, some observations made at Orizaba, Mexico, in March, 1897, seem worthy of record. This species is an abundant bird in many Mexican cities, finding in the plazas or parks suitable feeding and breeding grounds. In the small *Zocalo* or public gardens in the heart of the City of Orizaba, it happened that only one tree, a densely foliaged conifer, was available for nesting sites, and as an apparent result the gardens were inhabited by only one family of Grackles. I watched these birds for some time on March 15 and 16, seeing ten or twelve females, but only one male. The former were building; and on one occasion I saw at least six different females bring nesting materials into the coniferous tree at intervals. This tree contained several nests; how many it was not possible to determine, from the path at its base, and its isolation, in connection with the facts I have mentioned, lead me to believe that it constituted the harem of the male who generally perched in an adjoining araucaria, assuming the ridiculously conscious pose so characteristic of this species.—
FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

a **McKay's Snowflake (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) at Bethel, Alaska.**—Two specimens of this rare bird were recently sent me from Bethel, ninety miles up the Kuskokwim River, in the western part of Alaska. This is probably the farthest inland at which the bird has yet been found. The specimens, both females, in full winter plumage, were taken Jan. 4, 1898.—
WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*